



PLANNING FOR ALCOHOL PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Introduction

Alcohol-related harm is an issue for many communities. Research shows that people's drinking behaviour is influenced by their local environment and that communities can do a great deal to reduce alcohol-related harm. What is local government's role in reducing alcohol-related harm and does it go beyond liquor licensing? What are some options for Council's to work with others in reducing alcohol related harm and what are the challenges? This sector group meeting provided an opportunity for people working in local authorities and other areas to come together and discuss these issues, to better plan for alcohol in the community and to hear examples of ways that local authorities are making a difference.

Around 50 people attended from a variety of organisations including Local Government, Police, Public Health, LGNZ and other organisations with an interest in alcohol.

The first part of the workshop looked at the connection between alcohol, community safety and regulation and the second part of the workshop concentrated on what's needed to get better local connections occurring.

What are some of the connections between alcohol, community safety and regulation? What might a local group be creating when working together effectively?

- Shared data collection
 - Good partnerships between Territorial Authorities (TA's), health and Police
 - Incentives and rewards for 'good' licensees
 - The ability to set local licensing fees
 - There will be community input into licensing decisions
 - It will make District Plan changes and the development of Local Alcohol Action plans easier
 - There will be a comprehensive alcohol plan
 - It will be integrated
 - Cover all aspects of alcohol related harm
 - Each agency will buy in and commit resources
 - It will be regularly reviewed
 - There will be a co-operative approach between licensees, sports clubs etc
 - There will be clear messages to the community
 - The right partners will be engaged and on board
 - They will have passion
 - There will be good information sharing
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- There will be joint responsiveness
 - There will be some kind of 'centre of excellence' for alcohol management. This could be internet based
 - There will be joint collection and sharing of information
 - There will be trust and better communication
 - There will be sharing of resources eg agencies will come together to jointly pay for crown prosecution cases
 - There will be measurable outcomes
 - The work will be action orientated with positive results
 - Everyone will have defined roles
 - There won't be duplication.

What do you need to make this happen?

- Time, resources and staff
 - Champions
 - Commitment from the organisation
 - It needs to be achievable
 - The results need to be demonstrable
 - Community buy in
 - Joint monitoring
 - Joint communication – possibly through joint newsletters or letterhead
 - The alcohol plan needs to be central
 - Operational
 - Policy
 - Partners
 - Resourcing
 - Centre of excellence
 - Buy in from agencies
 - Strong legislation
 - A clear purpose
 - Regular meetings
 - Information sharing
 - The Act needs to be a harm reduction Act
 - Resourcing shouldn't be split
 - Funding
 - Dedicated roles
 - Engagement with community groups
 - A toolbox for developing alcohol management plans
 - Sitting DLA's – currently many of them don't sit
 - Workforce development
 - Training - Public Health Units as an example; the staff don't necessarily have experience around alcohol. This is the same in many TA's
 - Testing of the current system – need to try new things.
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